

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

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### COVID-19 and Campus: Quick Updates

Remember to continue following campus guidelines and performing self-checks. Nearly all information on new campus policies and changes can be found in the Rose Ready document.

Most up-to-date version here —

[Rose Ready Guide, Version 14.0 \(December 7, 2020\)](#)

Additional information can be found on Rose-Hulman websites.

As of Tuesday, December 8th, 2020...

(Data from [Rose-Hulman COVID-19 Dashboard](#))

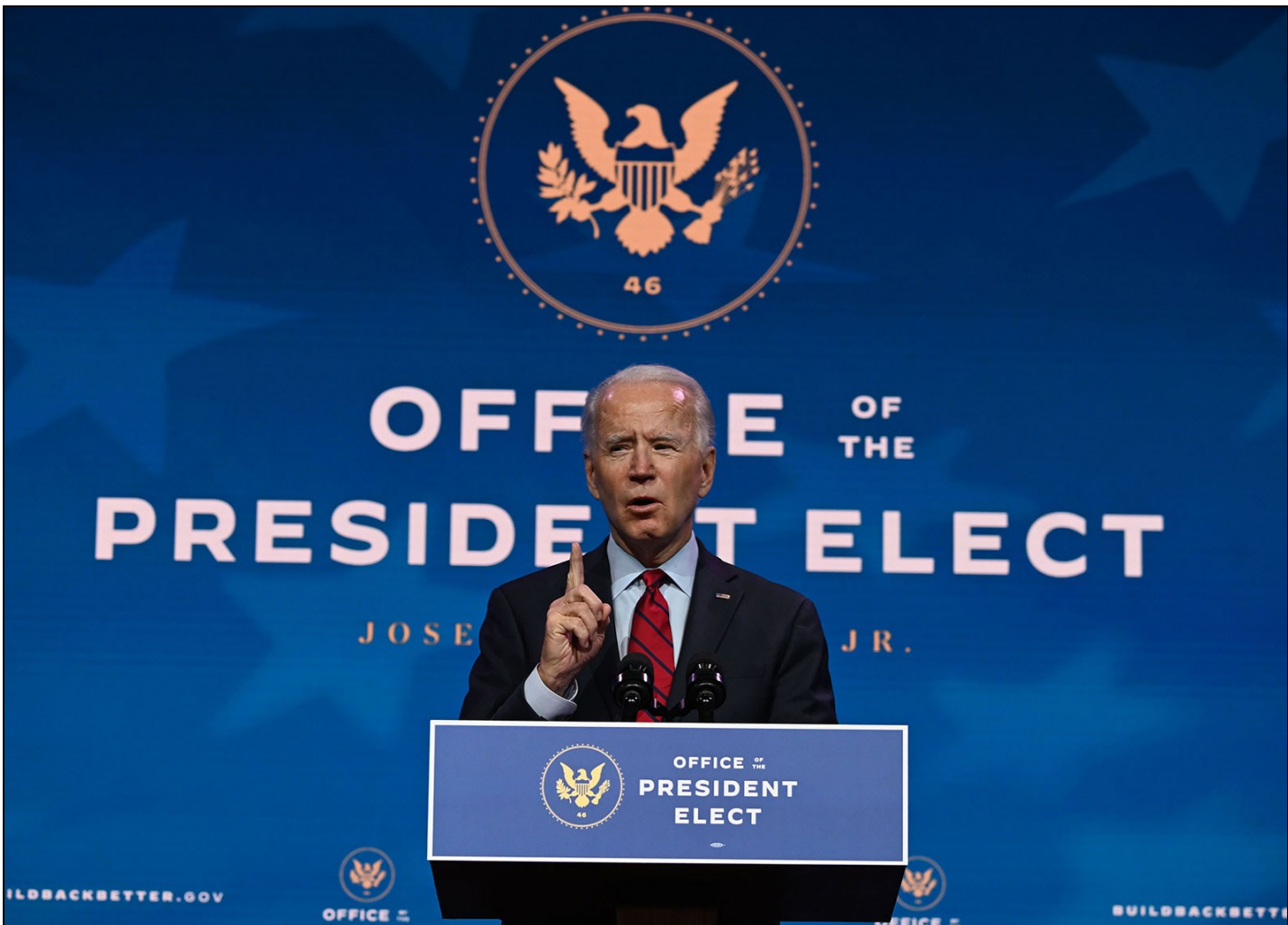
New Positive Cases from Past 7 Days	Surveillance in Total...
1 Students	Total Tests Performed Since May 2020 — 26,821
4 Employees	Total Positive Cases Since May 2020 — 127
0 Contractor/Affiliate	

# Concluding the 2020 Elections

Jonathan Kawauchi  
World News Editor

Despite the voting day of the 2020 US Presidential Election ending more than a month ago, its results are still being disputed throughout several levels of government and media. The presidential inauguration is marked for January 20, and December 8 marks the “safe harbor” deadline that federal law dictates must fall six days before electors meet to cast their votes for the next president. The purpose of this deadline is to provide a conclusive election that cannot be disputed before the inauguration date.

According to Edward Foley, a law professor at Ohio State University, while every state has certified and approved enough electors for at least 270 votes for Biden, each state has a built in litigation procedure to challenge certification, even after certifica-



President-elect Joe Biden addressing how he plans to tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Image courtesy of Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images.

harbor” status won’t necessarily put Wisconsin’s votes in any practical jeopardy, it should be

will object to the electors and Republicans in Pennsylvania have urged lawmakers to do the same, however these challenges cannot be successful without a majority in both the House and Senate. Nevertheless, public challenges like this have been ongoing since election day. Georgia in particular has been a contested state for several weeks now, with its second special election concluding. As of December 8, Biden has won the state three times, with the latest count favoring Biden by just under 12,000 votes. The recounts have come from challenges by a team under President Trump. Despite the President’s claims, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has warned that false claims about voting fraud were hurting the credibility of the state.

“I know there are people that are convinced the election was fraught with problems, but the evidence, the actual evidence,

the facts tell us a different story”, Mr. Raffensperger stated.

The Trump campaign has brought lawsuits to other states as well, with federal judges dismissing cases in Georgia and Michigan last Monday. The lawsuit in Georgia was brought on by Sidney Powell, dubbed “the Kraken” lawsuit by Powell as she threatened to release it upon the state’s electoral system.

“The claims in the Kraken lawsuit prove to be as mythological as the creature for which they’re named. Georgians can now move forward knowing that their votes, and only their legal votes, were counted accurately, fairly, and reliably”, Mr. Raffensperger stated. Georgia’s announcement came one day before the safe harbor deadline. The status should make it harder for members of congress to continue to challenge election results. The college will meet on December 14 to formalize the election outcome.



Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announcing the results of Georgia’s second recount.

tion has occurred. Some states, such as Wisconsin which has planned a court hearing on December 10, will not be given “safe harbor” status due to missing the deadline. While not having “safe

noted that it will be placed under a different legal classification.

Alabama Republican Congressman Mo Brooks has said he



Page 3: **Entertainment!**  
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Page 5: **Sports!**  
Page 6: **Flipside!**

# You decide what’s newsworthy.

Tuesdays at 5:15pm, online





Classics Vs. Remakes: RoboCop

Colin Beach  
Rose News Editor

Trying to find a way to relax after much good food Thanksgiving Day, my brother and I searched for a movie to watch. With the pandemic, not a lot of new films have been released, so we looked to older ones for entertainment. We chose the 1987 sci-fi classic Robocop. I had yet to see it, so my brother warned me that “there are some parts you can’t help but laugh at” (note: Robocop is not meant to be a comedy).

But he was right. The stop-motion and animation of robots was peak 80’s, just different enough from the movie set to distract you from what’s going on. And the plot was classic too: a couple minutes of exposition, over an hour-and-a-half of chaotic action and destruction, and hardly any resolution -- literally a cut to credits right after the villain’s defeat. Robocop was just crazy enough for me to love it. Would I watch it again though? Maybe not.

I then realized there was a remake of the film back in 2014, so I decided to watch that for comparison instead. It seems like a disproportionate amount of movies in the past decade have been remakes (or, at the least, very-delayed sequels), and additionally the remakes often don’t do well with fans of the original. So I thought to test it: movies

I had never seen, a week apart. Would I suddenly become a nostalgic critic? The 2014 Robocop followed what

I expected from recent movie remakes. While keeping the basics of the story-line and characters, studios try to re-

invent the wheel and don’t always succeed. The remake added more character development, background, and a coherent story to follow, but not as much action as expected for a sci-fi crime film. A lot of the film also had prominent CGI features that sometimes took away from the production (most modern films have so much CGI now it seems to lower the creativity put into design and filming). The near-future setting also was a big shift from the standard “hero in a falling-apart dystopia”; a little too much similarity to reality for me.

Overall, the remake had better storytelling, but was not as good a watching experience as the original. Each Robocop has its advantages, but in the end I remain a bigger fan of the original. As I said, many remakes work too hard and often demonstrate a lack of creativity (live-action remakes are a whole different story). Sometimes the originality of a classic is good enough -- obvious flaws and all -- and it is hard to remake success that already exists.

I may try this experiment again with a different franchise, and maybe I’ll begin with the remake to connect with new audiences that then discover the old version. All in all, at least it will help complete my list of must-see movies.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Emoji Puzzle!

Janine Dias  
Staff Writer

Christmas Carols as Emojis

👁️👤💋🎅

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## An History of the Gap

Glody Mutebwa  
Opinions Editor

Gender stereotypes take their roots in gender roles. During the Victorian Era in the 19th century, women usually worked in the household while men were the primary providers. Women cleaned, cooked and tended to the kids. Men worked all day to return to a home-cooked meal and submissive wives and children. These customs that had been established determined a woman's role in society and restricted their participation in it as well. For years feminists have been fighting for equal rights among women. Although many of these battles have been won, equal pay in the workplace continues to cause problems. This difference in wages between men and women implied several factors.

Before the 1960s, it was assumed that men and women did not have the same qualities. Compared to men, women were less educated. It was not a priority for women to get advanced degree since their role in society was primarily to take care of children and manage the household. As a result of that, we had fewer women in the workplace and if they were, they were less qualified than their men counterpart.

Since women and men did

not have the same qualifications and the same role overall, employers displayed at that time different job listings. One for women and the other one for men. Women were best suited for job requiring few qualifications, small and repetitive work. They worked as childcare workers, administrative assistants, nurses and elementary school teachers. These occupations were the summum bonum for a woman who wanted to have a career during those days. It was about to change in the following decade.

In 1963, the Equal Pay Act was added to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and prohibits sex-based wage discrimination between men and women in the same establishment who perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort and responsibility under similar working conditions. This law was a landmark in the promotion of women at work because it forces the employers to pay women the same salary as men as long as they have the same role in a company. Although the initiative was great, it did not do much because women usually did not hold the same position as men. And the reason is that they just were not qualified enough and the men still out-earned them. However, it encourages women to seek ad-

vanced degree. It worked as an incentive for women because they would be earning as much as men. That new trend impacted the following generation and helped reduce the stigma related to women in the workplace. Twenty years after the implementation of the law, women would be out earning men in college degrees.

The following generation would witness a lot of first for women, the first woman on the Supreme Court in 1981, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; the first American woman in space, Sally Kristen Ride in 1983; the same year, Geraldine Anne Ferraro became the first woman on presidential ticket. Women would increasingly enter the workforce compared to the previous generation and would have access to better position and a larger job market now on. The surprise is that, despite the fact that women have more qualifications and more degrees than men. They are still outnumbered in the workplace.

The surprising fact that women despite being more educated and more qualified than men do not have a greater share of participation in the workforce suggests that education is not the only barrier to the involvement of women in the workforce. In a research presented at the Iowa State Univer-

sity, it is said that: Ideas such as women are not as strong as men, women are more emotional than men or even women should not hold power positions have had major effects outside the workplace. Young girls often grow up believing these stereotypes because it is reinforced in a school or home setting.

The other proven cause of the gender wage gap is motherhood, women are as of today still expected to raise children and take care of most of the household tasks. Usually in a couple, the woman is more likely to stay at home once the couple have children even though she is more qualified than the man. It is a social concept. It is also a choice made by many women who find it very rewarding as occupation.

The wage gap related to gender has several causes and different solutions have been tested in order to help diminish the gap. Starting with the implementation of the Equal Pay Act in 1963 which helped increase the education rate of women and their workforce participation. It did not erase the gap, other causes were to be found. There are stereotypes which stigmatize women in society and parenthood which also take a lot from women. Overall, the gender pay gap can be the result of several factors each more or less important.

## Is Black Friday Real?

Aidan Moulder  
Editor-in-Chief

Let's face it: Black Friday this year was nothing special. The giant retail holiday that once portended nearly cataclysmic sales has been slowly turning into a much less serious affair. Of course, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been a factor in the operations of many different businesses, large and small, but in recent years I have still noticed a decline in the number of different sales as well as the magnitude of the savings associated with them. It also seems that the Black Friday-Cyber Monday dichotomy, in which in-store sales occurred on Friday and online sales occurred the following Monday, has largely been rejected and replaced with a full weekend of sales both in-store and online; in some cases, like Newegg, sales last all of November.

While that particular structure, dubbed "Black November" by Newegg, sounds like a good idea, it's not really notable. In fact, as far as I saw with items from the site that I take interest in, the sales were the same through all of November and are still the same price now in December. The site simply rebranded "Black November" to "Holideals" and various other less clever names. In addition, at the

time of writing, Newegg had a Cyber Monday encore sale. That just completely ruins the purpose of such a sale. I like to get cool and/or expensive things for small quantities of cash, but I think an important aspect of consumer satisfaction (not to mention an important part of the economics

more likely to use the money you saved on another deal on the same site, which correlates to a better result for the retailer. On the flipside, if there's a supposed "Black Friday-only" sale that's not great, maybe 10-20% off something fairly expensive, and then that sale ends up actually

special whatsoever? They clearly aren't, and it seems most items are the same price at every retailer, so anyone with a Prime membership is probably going to buy from Amazon instead of other places because Prime shipping is cheaper and faster than shipping from anywhere else in all but the



Image Courtesy of CNBC

behind a massive once-a-year sale) is getting a good deal while only having a limited time to get that deal. If you're able to find a \$1000 item at half price and be one of a select group of people to successfully take advantage of the price cut, you'll be a lot more satisfied with your purchase and

lasting the entire month of November with no exclusivity (i.e. no time or quantity restrictions), it's not really special and the company selling the item probably won't make many sales of that particular item.

So how are any of these deals

most special cases. I don't know if these unremarkable sales are all a result of the pandemic, but if they are I hope we'll see better ones next year, because full- and near full-price Christmas gifts make it really difficult to shop for the whole family effectively.





## Upcoming NBA Season

Glody Mutebwa

### Opinions Editor

In two weeks, the much-awaited 20-21 NBA season will have its start. Amidst a global pandemic, basketball fans all over the world cannot wait to see their favorite basketball players back on the court. After a tumultuous 19-20 season, marked by the emergence of future superstars and notable absences, the 20-21 season is shaping up to be way more interesting. The coronation of “King” James last October put tremendous pressure on the other superstars. Kevin Durant and the Nets, Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks, Jimmy Butler and the Heats should be the main contenders in the East, Luka Dončić and the Mavericks, Damian Lillard and the Trailblazers, Curry and the Warriors should challenge the Lakers in the Western Conference.

Although not favorites last year, the Lakers led by LeBron James and Anthony Davis were able to triumph

under unique circumstances. Their season was not easy, starting rather cold against the prohibitive favorite Clippers with a loss. The Clippers added Kawhi and Paul George in the hope to contend for a title and due to the depth of the team were expected to be the best team in the league. After the long hiatus caused by the pandemic, the Clippers’ season in the bubble was not impressive. The first round of the playoff saw the Clippers stars being bested by the young duo of European ascending stars; however, injuries played a big role in the series and the Clippers were ultimately victorious, but the picture was clear by that point, the Clippers were far from invincible. Against a well-prepared and well-coached Nuggets team, the Clippers took three games before losing three consecutive games and shamefully leaving the bubble, breaking the hearts of oddsmakers. During the series, Paul George, a former MVP candidate, worked some magic with a disappearance act on par with Houdini.

The 20-21 season will be a much more interesting season, with Curry, Durant, Irving, and Wall back on the floor. The Lakers had a very active off-season with very interesting acquisitions, they seem to have reinforced their bench with quality players. Anthony Davis has extended his contract with the Lakers guaranteeing relevancy to the Lakers for at least 5 more years. On the other side of the country, the Brooklyn Nets finally have a fully healthy Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving. The duo will make their debut on the 22nd of December against Durant’s former team, the Golden State Warriors, led by Stephen Curry at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Nets have high expectations this year, as the favorite in the East, they should be prepared to face LeBron next June but before, they must take care of Giannis and the Bucks, Embiid and Simmons as well as Jimmy Butler waiting for them in South Beach. The challenge should be easy if Kevin Durant is healthy. After a devastating

Achilles’ injury, Kevin Durant should be back on the court fresher and hungrier than ever, the former MVP, 4-time scoring champ, 2-time Finals MVP, and 10-time All-Stars should be in the run for MVP this season again.

This season is also pivotal for a lot of young players, the amount of talent around the league is unprecedented. Young players will be fighting to establish themselves as perennial All-Stars in the league and as the next generation of basketball greats. With many household names in their thirties, a younger generation is shaping up with Giannis, Dončić, Young, and Zion waiting for the spotlight. Giannis almost trapped between two worlds is ahead of them with already two MVPs and a DOPY award, but he is also older. Luka Dončić may be at only 22 going for his first MVP campaign. This season will most likely determine who will have the privilege to wear the crown in five years after James and Durant exit the elites.

## Triathletes Taking On Ironman

Caleigh Kintner  
Sports Editor

For decades, the Ironman and other races filled with weekend warriors have dominated triathlon. Now, the elites are trying to take control with a new series.

Ironman triathlon champions are often regarded as the superheroes of modern sports, freakishly fit specimens who swim, cycle and run a combined 140.6 miles in roughly eight hours.

Yet professional triathletes have long been poorly compensated afterthoughts in a sport that has prioritized the everyday amateur participants who squeeze in training before and after work and pay nearly \$1,000 to enter a race.

That may be on the verge of changing, beginning this weekend in Daytona Beach, Fla., where many of the sport’s top professionals will start a championship circuit they hope will become as lucrative as the golf and tennis championships are for their pros. In the process, they are trying to unseat Ironman, the company that has dominated triathlon for decades, as the premier competition for elite triathletes.

“It’s actually harder to make a living as a professional triathlete now than it was when I started in 2008,” said Tim O’Donnell, 40, who has won more than 20 major triathlon events. “Most athletes are just trying to pay their bills.”

The new series of events, backed by the Professional Triathletes Organization, a fledgling alliance among 350 top triathletes and numerous deep-pocketed investors, is the latest attempt by top athletes to become highly compensated partners with control of their careers and the sports they play rather than undervalued independent contractors. O’Donnell is a co-president of the organization.

Although the history of sports is filled with leagues and tours that theoretically looked perfect but foundered after failing to gain an audience, when successful the change can be dramatic. In the 1960s, Wimbledon semifinalists received two pairs of shorts from Lillywhites, the sports emporium in London. Then, Grand Slams started allowing professionals and, beginning in the 1970s, tennis players took control of their tours. Last year, a Wimbledon semifinalist earned \$750,000 and the singles champions earned nearly \$3 million each.

By comparison, in 2019, the total prize money at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, the Super Bowl of triathlon, was \$650,000. The winners won \$120,000. Earlier this



Image courtesy of the New York Times

year, Advance Publications, the media company, bought Ironman for \$730 million.

“These athletes should be highly paid co-owners,” said Charles Adamo, executive chairman of the Professional Triathletes Organization.

Adamo, the world’s top triathletes and investors like Michael Moritz, the billionaire venture capitalist, have planned a race series with four major individual competitions and an annual team event, similar to the championship schedules in tennis and golf.

Each event will feature 60 top professional men and 60 top professional women. The events will offer more than \$1 million in prize money that the top 20 athletes will share — significantly more than at the typical triathlon competition.

Instead of the 140.6-mile Ironman distance, or the 70.3-mile half-Ironman, the new competitions will be 100 kilometers, about 62 miles, and include a 1.2-mile swim, a 48-mile bike ride and a half-marathon (13.1 miles). This weekend’s race will take place at Daytona International Speedway, with competitors swimming in the large lake in the infield.

The shorter distance ensures competitions can finish in a more television-friendly window of about three and half hours. It will also allow elite athletes to do more high-profile competitions than they otherwise might in a year. O’Donnell predicted top triathletes would participate in the new group’s five events, plus one regular Ironman event to qualify for Kona and, if they make it, the world championship.

Increased prize money should provide an incentive for triathletes to compete head-to-head more often.

Rachel Joyce, a retired champion and, like O’Donnell, a co-president of

the triathletes organization, said she and other top triathletes regularly picked races in which they knew a weak field would give them the best chance at the winner’s paycheck and the sponsor bonuses for placing first.

“It makes it kind of boring when your closest competitor is 20 minutes behind you,” Joyce said in an interview last month.

That is only part of the downside of professional triathlon, a sport that began as a lark in the 1970s in California and Hawaii. The dirty secret about elite triathletes, with their chiseled physiques, \$8,000 bikes and training schedules that allow for unlimited chocolate cream pie, is that for most of the pros, the pay is relatively lousy.

Kevin Durant of the Nets will approach \$40 million this season, not counting the millions more he earns through sponsorships. In 2019, Jan Frodeno of Germany, the reigning Ironman world champion and something of a deity to triathletes, got paid like a decent accountant for his victories, taking home \$158,000 in prize money. Katie Zaferes of the United States, who led the prize money list for both men and women in 2019, earned \$347,500. Just \$80,000 in winnings was good enough for a spot in the top 10 on the money list. For the best of the best, endorsement deals can boost income — to the range of a bad middle relief pitcher — but since triathlon is barely on television, those lucrative endorsement deals are increasingly hard to come by for all but the superstars.

“The best triathletes are doing pretty well, but the ones in the middle and the bottom are hurting,” said Rocky Harris, chief executive of U.S.A. Triathlon, the sport’s national governing body.

Alissa Doehla was a professional marathoner until 2016, when she decid-

ed to pursue the triathlon. She estimates the switch required about a \$20,000 investment in equipment. She had five top-10 finishes in half-Ironman events in 2017. Then she got hit by a truck while training in 2018. She has returned to competitions and said that while it was possible she broke even that first year, she certainly had not since then.

“It’s so expensive upfront,” Doehla, 34, said last month from her home in Indiana, where she was training for this weekend’s race in Daytona Beach. “My husband has a good job. For people who are not lucky enough to have a spouse to support them in the lean years, it is a tough sport.”

The new series will only work if fans actually watch. That would drive up media rights fees and spur potential sponsors to try to reach a desirable audience.

U.S.A. Triathlon has found the average income for all triathletes is more than \$125,000. The sport’s boosters like to portray triathlon as the 21st-century version of golf — a favored activity among white-collar executives who obsess about data from their Garmin watches with an intensity their predecessors gave to golf handicaps. But participatory endurance sports have always been about maximizing entry fees rather than creating the stars who compete for million-dollar purses and make compelling televised sports drama.

Some 100 media outlets worldwide, including NBC’s Peacock streaming service, will feature the Daytona Beach race this weekend. Moving forward, though, organizers need long-term rights and sponsorship deals.

The new endeavor plans to allow weekend warriors to participate in its competitions, but their entry fees will not be enough to sustain the organization and the prize money it wants to offer.

Chris Kermode, who ran tennis’s ATP Tour and is now vice chairman of the Professional Triathletes Organization, said if slick televised championships in snooker and darts could create celebrity champions, triathletes, who are usually more attractive physical specimens than dart throwers or billiards players, should be able to find their way.

“The principles of all sports are fundamentally the same,” Kermode said. “It is about making people care about one person winning over someone else. Everybody has a story, and if you tell that story, you can get people to care.”



WACKY QUOTES

“Dr. Brackin has a PhD in bags of stuff”  
- Dr. McCormack

“When it is series, you don’t use your brain. Boom, the same.”  
-Dr. Letfullin

“My hate for Windows almost cost me my PhD.”  
- Dr. Wilkin

“You see why I’ve become and engineer rather than an artist. I’ve been doing this for years and it doesn’t get any better.”  
- Dr. Grigg

Did your prof say something hilarious or just great out of context? Did you hear something confusing or funny on your jaunt about the fine halls of this institution? We want to hear about it! Send your quotes with who said it to [suppmg@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:suppmg@rose-hulman.edu) or fill out this nifty google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt1>

## Indiana Pacers Hope a New Coach and a New Mindset Will Prosper

Bass Quet Bahlboi

The Indiana Pacers are a basketball team that is located in Indianapolis, the Crossroads of America, and have recently had some problems. Fitness is one of the biggest concerns for this team, and new Coach Nate Bjorkgren had some choice words:

“Gram and Gramps can do better than what my guys are giving out there. Pacer basketball is about speed, and its time to make sure we have that. Test their speed and quickness, its sh\*t right now.”

Is a team like ours really set for that bad of a season? A common occurrence in basketball is to have your team go through a pre-season training camp. Multi-stage camps are typically what the Pacers team has run. Aerobic exercises will be necessary to fulfill Coach Bjorkgren’s promise of a faster pace. Capacity of this camp is limited though, with the off season being one of the shortest ever thanks to Covid-19.

Test the frustration level amongst the NBA’s top players and teams and you will find they tend to agree with each other. That isn’t hard to see. Progressively, many sports and leagues are seeing people getting hurt or opting out due to a sped up schedule. Gets to a point where you wonder why there are still playing. More and more the Pacers players are getting back to game speed following months of playing amongst themselves. Difficult road to redemption ahead.

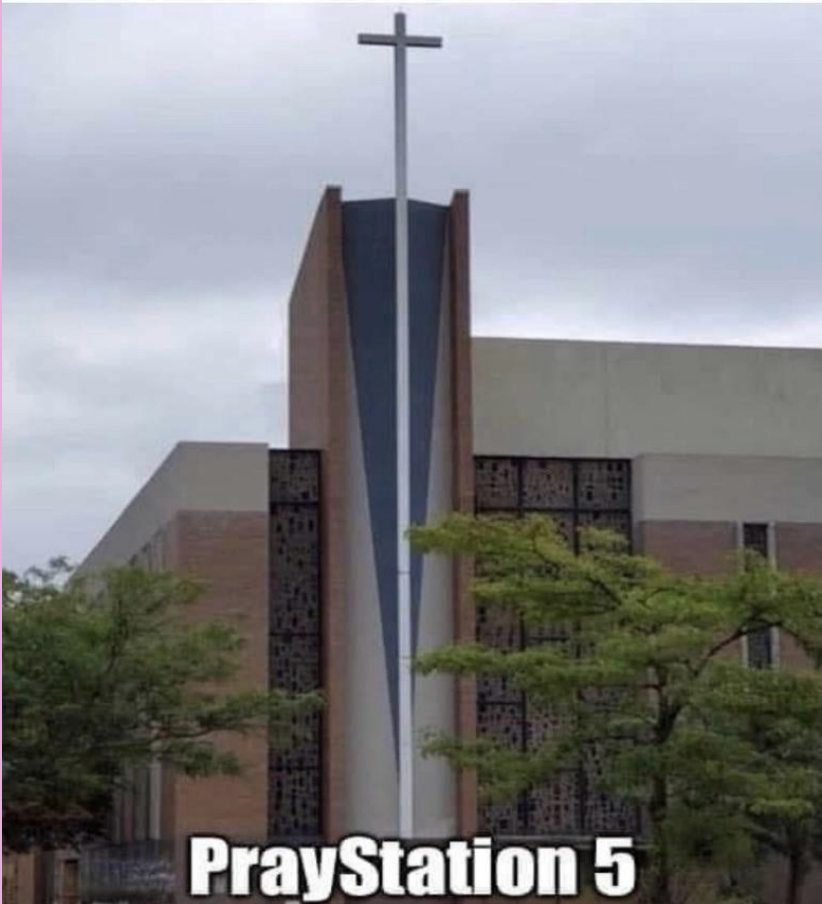
As the beginning of the 2021 season draws nearer and nearer, trades in the NBA have begun to ramp up. It will be interesting to see who, if anyone, the Pacers bring in to try and strengthen their squad. “...Continues to be a surprise...” is what Bjorkgren had to say on the obstacles for the upcoming season.

TOP TEN  
*2020 Disasters*

- 2020
- Messages of togetherness from stupidly large corporations
- The threatening of WWIII
- The Ice Age
- Dolittle*
- Every single one of the 1,120,134,598 hurricanes that made landfall in Louisiana and Texas
- The Great Twinkie Famine
- Ohio’s succession from the United States of America
- Xbox Taylor Series
- No iPhone 12
- Call of Duty Cold War 2: Electric Boogaloo
- And its sequel, Total Nuclear Annihilation
- The sun setting at the ungodly hour of 5:30pm because of the completely obsolete and outdated daylight savings
- Instagram update
- J Jonah Jameson not getting more pictures of Spiderman
- Not being allowed to have mosh pits
- Marvel studios not releasing a film
- Baby Yoda eating half of the remaining eggs of a species
- Finding out putin isn’t the correct way to spell pudding
- That one gender reveal party that needed all of California to be on fire before seeing the red and thinking, oh shoot it’s a girl
- The time where Jupiter ‘went for a walk’ before Thanksgiving dinner and came back with two more red spots
- Cats 2: Me-wow I can’t believe there’s a second*

Meme of the Week

Everyone’s so worried about getting PlayStation 5, they forgot about:



PrayStation 5

If you have any strong opinions on this meme or if you would like to send me a meme to put on here, read the thing at the bottom to figure out my email, then email me that meme and I will probably put it on here. Thanks in advance. \*If you are reading this and want to earn a prize, find the hidden meme within this page and email me\*